Task Force for Foodgrain Surplus States

4308. SHRI C. O. POULOSE : Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state :

(a) whether Government have decided to constitute a task force to look into various problems posed for foodgrains surplus States such as Punjab, due to implementation of the WTO regime ;

(b) if so, what are the details thereof; and

(c) by when, the task force would be set-up ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI SHRIPAD YESSO NAIK) : (a) No, Sir.

(b) and (c) Does not arise.

Increasing the MSP for rice

4309. SHRI RAJNATH SINGH 'SURYA' : Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state :

(a) whether there are demands for increasing Minimum Support Price for rice;

(b) if so, the agreement therefor; and

(c) what is the reaction of Government thereto ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI SHRIPAD YESSO NAIK) : (a) to (c) The Government fixes each season the minimum support price (MSP) for paddy and not for rice. The MSP fixed for paddy (common) and paddy (grade A) varieties is Rs. 510 per quintal and Rs. 540 per quintal respectively for the crop year 2000-2001. The MSP of paddy for the 2001-2002 crop is at present under consideration of the Government and views of the State Governments in this regard will be duly kept in view, while fixing the MSP.

Additional Investment in Agricultural Marketing Infrastructure

4310. SHRI C. O. POULOSE :
SHRI S. RAMACHANDRAN PILLAI :

Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state :